

# Singapore Sketchbook

By Christy Sverre

When I first came to Singapore I was impressed by the lushness of it all, the green spaces, the huge canopies of the Angsana trees and the beauty of the lily ponds. Being a painter, I wanted to capture them all. I took my camera with me on walks in the botanical gardens and found that a lily pond could provide me with decades of material to paint. After taking hundreds of shots of lilies blooming above the water, I started looking deeper into the water itself and noticed the amazing reflections, moving and still, the deep colours therein, the stems of the flowers reaching deep into the soil below and the leaves caressing the surface of the pond. A series emerged of the lines, shapes, textures, colours and movement of the pond's surfaces and depths. I started two years ago and continue to this day.



*Deep down between stalks of plants, shadows and undergrowth are amazing lines and shapes. Up above is a clear blue sky, an endless horizon which the plants rise up to. From murky crowded bottoms they burst out of the chaos below and reach towards the sky. A true metaphor for striving to do all you can.*

*The surfaces of ponds never cease to provide the most amazing shapes and movements. If you sit still enough in the heat you can see such beautiful abstracts. Could I be beneath the surface or looking down from above? Maybe both at once.*



*Pushing the theme a bit further I introduced the notion of how wind plays amongst the flowers causing a beautiful havoc of colour and motion. The surface of the canvas breaks into small pieces yet as a whole it becomes a textural symphony. The long stems remain unbothered by the movement above, holding everything down and firmly rooted.*

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